

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 DRC-01 HEW-08 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 SS-20 SP-03 L-03 H-03 NSC-07

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 OIC-04

SCI-06 /129 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9597

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO, PO, SZ, US

SUBJ: WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: GUINEA BISSAU

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

REF: A) STATE 098316 B) GENEVA 2961

SUMMARY: US SHOULD VOTE AGAINST GUINEA-BISSAU APPLICATION.

FACTS HAVE NOT CHANGED, AND GUINEA-BISSAU STILL LACKS
ATTRIBUTES OF INDEPENDENT STATE. A CHANGE OF POSITION
ON THIS KEY ISSUE WOULD BE SEEN AS VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE
IN NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME. THIS COULD BE SERIOUSLY
HARMFUL TO US INTERESTS, COMING AT TIME WHEN PORTUGUESE
ARE SEEKING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND FAVORING SELF-
DETERMINATION IN AFRICAN TERRITORIES. CONSIDERATION
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO STATEMENT EXPLAINING THAT US VOTE
IN PART MOTIVATED BY RECENT LIBERALIZING EFFORTS OF NEW REGIME.
END SUMMARY

1. SINCE GUINEA-BISSAU ISSUE FIRST AROSE FOLLOWING
SEPT. 24, 1973 INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION, US HAS
REITERATED ITS CONCLUSION THAT GUINEA-BISSAU DOES NOT
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QUALIFY AS A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN UN

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. US HAS CITED LACK OF CONTROL OVER TERRITORY AND POPULATION, LACK OF SEAT OF GOVERNMENT WITHIN OWN TERRITORY, AND FAILURE TO MEET NORMAL CRITERIA ON ABILITY TO GOVERN AND OBSERVE INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS. THESE POSITIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN RELATION TO INSCRIPTION ON UNGA AGENDA OF GUINEA-BISSAU ITEM, ITU MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE INVITATION, REDCROSS CONFERENCE TEHRAN, AND ENTRANCE INTO FAO.

2. FOR US TO RETREAT FROM POSITION OPPOSING ENTRANCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU INTO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANS WOULD DENOTE CLEAR CHANGE OF USG POLICY. TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF APRIL 25 COUP D'ETAT IN PORTUGAL, SUCH EVIDENT POLICY CHANGE COULD ONLY BE CONSTRUED BY PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AS VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE.

3. NEW REGIME HAS EXPRESSED INTENTION AND BEGUN EFFORTS TO RESTORE LIBERTY AND BRING DEMOCRACY TO PORTUGAL. ON CRUCIAL OVERSEAS ISSUE GOVERNMENT HAS CALLED FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME AMBIGUITY AS TO TIMING, AND GOVERNMENT HAS SAID SELF-DETERMINATION NEED NOT MEAN INDEPENDENCE (A VIEW ALSO LONG HELD BY USG). IN THIS LIGHT, USG SHOULD BE FAR MORE COMPATIBLE WITH NEW REGIME THAN WITH OLD. CHANGE OF USG POLICY ON KEY GUINEA-BISSAU ISSUE WOULD LEAVE PORTUGUESE WITH CONCLUSION THAT DESPITE LIBERALIZATION EFFORTS OF NEW GOVERNMENT, USG DOUBTS NEW REGIME'S ASSERTIONS ON SELF-DETERMINATION FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES.

4. WHILE ABSENCE SOMEWHAT LESS DIFFICULT FOR US THAN ABSTENTION, THERE LITTLE REAL DIFFERENCE, AS EITHER WILL DENOTE CHANGE IN US POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL-AT JUST THE MOMENT WHEN PORTUGAL'S NEW LEADERS BELIEVE THEY HAVE TAKEN A STEP TO RESPOND TO OFTEN REITERATED US CALL FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. PORTUGAL IS ABSENT FROM WHA, NOT JUST FROM VOTE. FOR US TO BE ABSENT AT VOTE WOULD NOT BE TO "JOIN PORTUGAL".

5. RE REF B PARA 5, WE WOULD ONLY NOTE THAT US HAS NOT IN PAST BASED VOTE ON PROBABLE OUTCOME, AND THAT
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WHILE "FAVORABLE CLIMATE IN FUTURE RELATIONS WITH AFRICANS IN WHO FRAMEWORK," WORKTHY OF CONSIDERATION, IN OUR VIEW IT IS OUTWEIGHED BY DAMAGING EXPRESSION OF NON-SUPPORT FOR NATO MEMBER SEEKING TO COME BACK INTO FOLD.

6. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT AND USDEL CONSIDER EXPLANATION OF NEGATIVE VOTE, CAST ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: AS USG

HAS EXPLAINED IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN PAST, REPUBLIC
OF GUINEA-BISSAU DOES NOT MEET MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR
STATEHOOD. HOWEVER, IN THIS INSTANCE US VOTE IS
ADDITIONALLY INFLUENCED BY RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL,
WHERE COUP D'ETAT HAS BROUGHT INTO POWER LIBERAL REGIME
WHICH HAS BROUGHT RETURN OF EXILES, FREE SPEECH AND
ASSOCIATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, AND THE PROMISE OF
DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AT HOME AND SELF-DETERMINATION FOR
THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. USG SALUTES THESE MOVES TOWARD
DEMOCRACY, AND BELIEVES THAT, PENDING RESOLUTION OVERSEAS
PROBLEM, IT WOULD NOT BE CONSTRUCTIVE FOR WHA TO
ADMIT GUINEA-BISSAU. SCOTT

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